

**LOUDOUN COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, December 15, 2010
Mickey Gordon Room 215
Depot Ct.
Leesburg, VA 20176

Committee Members Present:

Paul Popejoy, Sugarland Run, Chairman
Dr. Leslie Sinn DVM, Potomac, Vice Chairman
Donna S. Lewis, At-Large, Recording Secretary
Kathy Brice, Blue Ridge
Martha Rise, Broad Run
Joanne Donohue, Catoclin
Vacant, Dulles
Dr. Michael Strickland DVM, Leesburg

Committee Members Absent:

Paul Dodaro, Sterling

LCACC Staff Present:

Thomas Koenig, Director
Donna Levesque, Administrative Manager
Kim Miller, Animal Control Officer
Laura Rizer, Public Relations

Public Present: None

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Paul Popejoy, at 7:02 p.m.
The minutes from June 23, 2010 were presented and accepted as revised (Committee officer title technical changes) (7-0-2). The minutes from the November 17, 2010 meeting were presented. The November 17 minutes were accepted as revised (7-0-2).

Public Comment: None

DIRECTOR UPDATE:

Mr. Koenig explained the new 2012 budget format. The new County Administrator requested a consultant be hired to do an internal programmatic review to identify services required by State Code. All services were looked at to determine if they were required by law (mandated) or were they established by the Board of Supervisors. To date no feedback has been given on the product. Other consultants have been hired to an internal review of all of the departments, agencies, and programs to give the new County Administrator feedback on the organization and any redundancy. The departments have not received any information on this study. Any information received on the Budget process will be sent to the Advisory Committee. The consultants hired are not specialty

orientated consultants. They are organizational consultants. From the contact with the Department, the consultants (Management Partners) seemed very knowledgeable on the operation. The first BOS meeting in March will be the final vote on the budget to set the tax rate. The budget booklets and advertised tax rate will come out in January.

The Care program medical amount (budget \$10,000) was removed last year. The spay/neuter part of Care is still in place and funded by license plate program. A Petco grant for \$25,000 was received for the medical part this year.

Holiday Coalition and Pet Pantry update:

The Pet Pantry is run out of the Care program because it is funded through donations and not the County Budget. This is the 6th year of participation. As of noon on Dec. 15 the Pet Pantry has served 289 families and 621 pets. As of last night, 895 families have been served by the Holiday Coalition.

Old Mill Vet called the Department in October and offered to donate a day of their service to do spay and neuters. On Sunday, December 5 the mobile adoption vehicle was loaded with 2 dogs and 15 cats and taken to Old Mill. This was every adoptable dog and cat that was not already spayed or neutered. These animals also benefited from a discounted adoption fee. Old Mill has offered to do this again in June, the height of kitten season.

A request to use Trust Funds to facilitate the transfer of 5 horses from the Shelter to the Roanoke Valley Horse Rescue (RVHR) In Hardy, Virginia was presented. The Department is not budgeted to facilitate this type of transfer. These horses need to have training and development before they can be adopted. The horses are all young (under a year) and have not been handled at all. This transfer will improve their chances of being adopted. There is another horse but an adoption in works for it. If the adoption does not happen, that horse also will go to Roanoke.

Motion: The Animal Advisory Committee approves the use of the Trust funds, up to \$2,500, to facilitate the transfer of the horses to Roanoke Valley Horse Rescue. (Strickland; 2nd Donohue) **Motion Passed:** 7-0-2.

Animal Control – Officer Miller

There were no positive rabies exposures in November. The number of dog bites seems to be staying steady right now. All bites are considered Dangerous Dog cases while the investigation is on going. Dangerous Dog cases on the report are ones that are going to court. Bites from At-Large dogs results in those dogs being impounded at the Shelter. Discussion was held on the different dog bite reports on the November stats. Many incidences are unattended children and owners breaking up dog fights.

Volunteer Activity and Public Relations – Laura Rizer

There was a huge volunteer orientation in November. The next one will be in March. The Apprentice program is working well (10 year olds who volunteer with a parent). There has been a double benefit in that the animals are becoming more accustomed to having children around. Volunteers are spread out geographically. The minimum age to

volunteer on your own is 16. Many volunteer to fulfill their community service hours which are required by schools. No court appointed community service is accepted. There is one group of high risk children from North Spring that comes once a week to work at the shelter with small animals.

Animal Shelter – Laura Rizer

Ms. Rizer gave specific information on the puppies and kittens euthanized for behavior. There was a group of 3 month old pit bull puppies that were confiscated as part of a neglect case. They had serious medical issues and were euthanized. Five pit bulls were transferred in December to other facilities (3 to Washington Co. MD, 2 to Frederick Co.). A Scottish Terrier Rescue and an All Breed Rescue based in Maryland were added to the rescue partners. A discussion was held on when rescue groups are called especially when there are serious behavioral issues with the dogs. Rescues or a specialist will be called if A-typical behavior for a typical breed is witnessed.

Subcommittee Reports

Reducing Euthanasia Rates (Mr. Popejoy): Report will be presented next month

Community Outreach (Dr. Sinn, Ms. Lewis): Reported under Pet Pantry

Laws & Ordinances (Mr. Popejoy, Ms. Donohue, Ms. Lewis): None

Mr. Koenig reported that Supervisor Kurtz, as part of strategic planning, requested a review of 808-Kennel Ordinance. County Admin was notified that a review of 808 was identified by the AAC as a project. There have been a few issues that have come up with 808 and the relationship with zoning and being out of sync with State Code.

Animals in Emergency (Dr. Strickland): None

Unfinished Business - None

New Business

Election of Officers

Motion: Move to accept the current slate of officers (Popejoy, Sinn, Lewis) for 2011 term (Strickland; 2nd Donohue). **Motion Passed:** 7-0-2

Committee Member Informational Reports

At Large – Ms. Donna Lewis - None

Blue Ridge – Ms. Kathy Brice - None

Broad Run – Ms. Martha Rice (New member). Ms. Rice is a native of Northern Virginia. She moved to Loudoun 5 years ago from Fairfax. She has used Animal Control a few times for her dog and volunteered during the large horse seizure case. Mr.

Popejoy suggested a tour of the facility, an ACO ride along and volunteering to increase awareness of the Department.

Catoctin – Ms. Joanne Dekker Donohue – Will be accepting 2 cats from a cat seizure of about 180 cats in Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Fairfax County Animal Shelter received a grant from Pet Smart to offset costs of spay/neuter of these cats. Approximately 30 of the cats were feral barn cats. This is the third incident in a relatively short time span of a home based cat rescuer becoming overwhelmed and unable to handle the cats they have taken in. Loudoun does not adopt out feral cats. Mr. Koenig will report back if Fairfax adopts out feral cats and if anything was special in this incidence. This may have been a court case and was part of a court order.

Dulles – Vacant

Leesburg – Dr. Mike Strickland, D.V.M. – Dr. Strickland asked who is responsible for the quarantine if an unvaccinated dog gets exposed to rabies. Officer Miller stated that the Health Department is responsible but that the Department assists. The Department is responsible for enforcing the laws regarding vaccination.

Potomac – Dr. Leslie Sinn, D.V.M. – Another (3rd) pet food collection was held at the NOVA campus for the Pet Pantry.

Sterling – Mr. Paul Dodaro - Absent

Sugarland Run – Mr. Paul Popejoy – Continuing STA Training work at the Shelter.

Adjournment 8:20 p.m.

Next meeting, Wednesday, January 26, 2011